Agricultural Marketing Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW. Room 2968-S, STOP 0225 Washington, DC 20250-0225

August 27, 2009

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Dana H. Coale

Deputy Administrator /s/ Dana H. Coale

Dairy Programs

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Agriculture Dairy Advisory Committee Nominations

On August 25, 2009, Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack announced the establishment of a Dairy Advisory Committee (Committee) and issued a solicitation for nominations as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) continuing efforts to respond to the needs of the dairy industry. The Committee will review the issues of farm milk price volatility and dairy farmer profitability and will provide a voice on how USDA can address contemporary issues affecting the dairy industry.

The Secretary will appoint up to 15 representatives of the dairy industry to serve in an advisory capacity on the Committee. Eligible nominees include: producers and producer organizations, processors and processor organizations, consumers, academia, retailers, and State agencies. Nominees should represent organic and non-organic dairy interests at the local, regional, National and international levels. It is critical that nominees be able to provide USDA direction and insight into the future of the dairy industry.

USDA's policy is that membership on industry-governed committees reflect, to the extent practical, the diversity of individuals served by the programs. USDA encourages all eligible women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to seek nomination, recognizing their underrepresentation on such committees.

Nominations, in the form of a letter, should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership to the Committee, list their name, title, address, telephone, and fax number. Nominations should be sent to Judith Lindsay, Secretary to Brandon Willis, Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs, Farm Service Agency, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 3612-S, Stop 0510, Washington, D.C. 20250-0510; Facsimile: (202) 720-4726; E-mail: judith.lindsay@wdc.usda.gov. Individuals who are nominated will receive an "Advisory Committee or Research and Promotion Background Information" form to complete before selection of Committee members by the Secretary of Agriculture.

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Additionally, a *Federal Register* notice further detailing the nomination process and a press release are enclosed. If you have any questions, please contact Solomon Whitfield, Designated Federal Official; Phone (202) 720-7901; e-mail: solomon.whitfield@usda.gov. This information also is available at Dairy Programs' website at www.usda.ams.gov/dairy.

We appreciate your active participation in this endeavor.

Enclosures

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Release No. 0399.09

Contact:

USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-4623

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ESTABLISHES DAIRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND REQUESTS NOMINATIONS

Advisory Committee Will Review Key Issues Impacting Dairy Industry and Generate Additional Ideas About How USDA Can Help Struggling Producers

WASHINGTON, August 25, 2009 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that as part of USDA's continuing efforts to listen to and respond to the needs of producers in the dairy industry he is moving forward on establishing the Dairy Industry Advisory Committee and is requesting nominations.

"The Obama Administration is committed to working with all sectors of the dairy industry to develop changes to the dairy pricing system to avoid the boom and bust cycle behind the crisis facing many dairy farmers this year," said Vilsack. "The input provided by the members of this committee will play an important role in building a more stable market for dairy producers for years to come."

Earlier this month, Secretary Vilsack promised to move forward with establishment of a charter creating the committee for two years. Once appointed, the committee will review the issues of farm milk price volatility, and dairy farmer profitability. The committee will also offer suggestions and ideas on how USDA can best address these issues to meet the dairy industry's needs. USDA is establishing the committee under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972.

The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint up to 15 representatives of the dairy industry to serve in an advisory capacity on the Committee. Representatives will include: producers and producer organizations, processors and processor organizations, handlers, consumers, academia, retailers, and state agencies involved in organic and non-organic dairy at the local, regional, national and international levels.

Written nominations must be received on or before September 28, and should be sent to Judith Lindsay, secretary to Brandon Willis, Deputy Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Farm Programs, USDA Room 3612-S, Stop 0501, Washington, D.C. 20250-0501; faxed to (202) 720-4726; or e-mailed to: judith.lindsay@wdc.usda.gov

Advisory committee members will elect the chairperson and vice-chairperson who will each serve a two-year term. As Deputy Administrator of the FSA Farm Programs, Willis will serve as the committee's executive secretary.

Details will be published in the August 28 Federal Register. More information on the committee is available at www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/DairyAdvisoryCommittee.

Additional steps that USDA has taken in recent months to support the dairy industry includes:

• Earlier this month, Secretary Vilsack announced that USDA is undertaking an unprecedented effort to use the department's administrative flexibility to provide relief to

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=... 8/28/2009

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individuals and businesses in struggling agriculture industries. Vilsack has ordered USDA Rural Development and the Farm Service Agency to use all available means to help producers, processors and other small businesses who have been hit by worsening economic conditions.

- Late last month, Secretary Vilsack announced that USDA was taking immediate action
 to support struggling dairy farmers by increasing the amount paid for dairy products
 through the Dairy Product Price Support Program (DPPSP). USDA estimates show that
 these increases, which will be in place from August 2009 through October 2009, will
 increase dairy farmers' revenue by \$243 million.
- In March, USDA transferred approximately 200 million pounds of nonfat dry milk to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, which will not only remove inventory from the market, but also support low-income families struggling to put nutritious food on their tables.
- USDA expects to spend more than \$1 billion in fiscal year 2009 on purchases of dairy products (Dairy Product Price Support Program) and payments to producers (Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC).
- On March 22, 2009, USDA reactivated USDA's Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP), to help U.S. dairy exporters meet prevailing world prices in addition to encouraging the development of international export markets in areas where U.S. dairy products are not competitive due to subsidized dairy products from other countries.
- Since March 22, USDA has encouraged the export of 20,000 tons of nonfat dry milk.
- From July 2008 through June 30, 2009, DEIP has announced allocations of 68,201 metric tons of nonfat dry milk; 21,097 metric tons of butterfat; 3,030 metric tons of various cheeses and 34 metric tons of other dairy products.
- USDA is working with the Department of State to identify foreign assistance programs such as U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program to make additional dairy products available internationally to reduce domestic supply.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service [Document No. AMS-DA-09-0058]

Dairy Industry Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service. **ACTION:** Notice of Intent to establish the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Dairy Industry Advisory Committee and a Request for Nominations.

summary: The USDA intends to establish the Dairy Industry Advisory Committee (Committee). The purpose of the Committee is to review the issues of farm milk price volatility and dairy farmer profitability and provide suggestions and ideas to the Secretary on how USDA can best address these issues to meet the dairy industry's needs. USDA also seeks nominations of individuals to be considered for selection as Committee members.

DATES: Written nominations must be received on or before September 28, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Brandon Willis, Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs, Farm Service Agency, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 3612–S, Stop 0510, Washington, DC 20250–0510; Facsimile: (202) 720–4726; E-mail: brandon.willis@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Solomon Whitfield, Designated Federal Official; Phone: (202) 720–7901; E-mail: solomon.whitfield@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App. II), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Agriculture intends to establish the Committee for two years. The purpose of the Committee is to review the issues of: (1) Farm milk price volatility and (2) dairy farmer profitability and provide suggestions and ideas to the Secretary on how USDA can best address these issues to meet the dairy industry's needs.

The Deputy Administrator of the Farm Service Agency's Farm Programs will serve as the Committee's Executive Secretary. Representatives from USDA mission areas and agencies affecting the dairy industry will participate in the Committee's meetings as determined by the Committee Chairperson.

The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint industry members to serve 2-year terms. Membership will consist of up to fifteen (15) members representing various dairy industry groups including: producers and producer organizations, processors and processor organizations,

handlers, consumers, academia, retailers, and state agencies involved in organic and non-organic dairy at the local, regional, national and international levels. The members of the established Committee will elect the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson will act in the Chairperson's stead.

The Secretary of Agriculture invites those individuals, organizations, and groups affiliated with the categories listed above to nominate individuals for membership on the established Committee. Nominations should describe and document the proposed member's qualifications for membership to the Committee, and list their name, title, address, telephone, and fax number. The Secretary of Agriculture seeks a diverse group of members representing a broad spectrum of persons interested in providing suggestions and ideas on how USDA can tailor its programs to meet the dairy industry's needs.

are nominated with the necessary forms for membership. The biographical information and clearance forms must be completed and returned to USDA within 10 working days of notification, to expedite the requisite clearance process before the Secretary of Agriculture selects Committee members. Equal opportunity practices will be followed in all appointments to the Committee in accordance with USDA

USDĂ will provide individuals who

have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and limited resource agriculture producers.

recommendations of the Committee

Dated: August 24, 2009.

policies. To ensure that the

Jonathan Coppess,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.
[FR Doc. E9–20733 Filed 8–25–09; 11:15 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices for the Natural Resources Conservation Service

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture. **ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of revised conservation practice standards in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include: Aquaculture Ponds (Code 397), Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops (Code 331), Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512), Forest Trails and Landings (Code 655), Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561), Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Code 603), Integrated Pest Management (Code 595), Obstruction Removal (Code 500), Pumping Plant (Code 533), Sediment Basin (Code 350), Spoil Spreading (Code 572), Trail and Walkways (Code 568), and Vegetative Barrier (Code 601). Notice is also hereby given of the rescission of Prescribed Forestry (Code 409), effective October 1, 2009. NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States will incorporate them into section IV of their respective electronic Field Office Technical Guides. These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land (HEL) or on land determined to be a wetland. Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment, all proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out HEL and wetland provisions of the law.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This is effective August 28, 2009.

Comment date: Submit comments on or before September 28, 2009. Final versions of these new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period, and after consideration of all comments.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted using any of the following methods:

- Mail: Wayne Bogovich, National Agricultural Engineer, Conservation Engineering Division, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 6136 South Building, Washington, DC 20250.
 E-mail:
- wayne.bogovich@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wayne Bogovich, National Agricultural Engineer, Conservation Engineering Division, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room